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THE
BROWN CREEK
WATERSHED

VOL. I. NO. 7

(3000 ft)

WADESBORO N.C.

January 15, 1935.



Cooperative Agreements

H. M. Stott.

The soundness and popularity of the program being offered to the farmers of the Brown Creek area is best shown by the fact that farmers continue to sign the cooperative agreements just as fast as the agreement men can get to them.

Some invitations have been in for several weeks and perhaps some are wondering why we do not get to them sooner. We have invitations coming in from all parts of the area and with only one soil expert to do the soil mapping it is not possible to get all farms mapped promptly. However this work is progressing so well that most of the mapping will be completed in the near future and we will then be able to get to any farmer in any part of the area much more promptly.

Up to the present time we have signed 213 agreements, covering 249 farms, and 34298 acres. This means that approximately half the land in the area has already been signed up. Since the last issue of our Bulletin the following farmers have signed cooperative agreements:-

J. B. Smith	Emma Barrett	L. L. Odom
W. D. Teal Estate	G. L. Riggins	Mrs. W. F. Moore
N. C. State Prison Farm	J. C. Privette	M. W. Gaddy
J. H. Bennett	Mrs. Addie L. Dabbs	H. F. Preslar
Mrs. Atha Stevens	Clyde Smith	C. B. Long
Frank Redfern	J. H. Chambers	Henry Ledbetter
Mrs. Annie Leonard	Mrs. Ada Sims	J. W. Smith
H. P. Tice	Walter Crowder	J. A. McRae
Sam Chambers	T. K. Funderburk	Hattie McRae
R. E. Richardson	C. E. Rushing	T. B. Goodman
Mrs. O. B. Atkinson	E. A. Brewer	L. C. Duke
W. A. Phillips	E. Z. Price	A. L. Caudle
B. H. Hutchison	W. A. Hargett	Mrs. Fred Ross
R. E. Little	Archie Mills	O. O. O'Neal
Sara G. Allen	R. L. Smith	Mrs. T. K. O'Neal
W. E. Harrington	H. H. Horton	Hoyte L. Smith
H. D. Griffin	Junius Horton	Townley R. Stevens
G. C. Smith	B. N. Lowery	Vester Autry
R. D. Smith	Oscar Gullett	H. A. Redfern
J. C. Gathings		C. E. Rushing

We wish to urge all farmers who have not sent in an invitation to do so right away. We want to get most of the agreements worked out before the spring farm operations get started. It will be much easier to work out a suitable cropping plan now than after another crop is planted. Getting the plan started this spring will put you just ahead in your efforts to check erosion on your farm. It will also be to your advantage to sign up now while the Soil Erosion Service can supply some seeds, lime, and other supplies that might be needed to get the program started on your farm. It will soon be too late to plan for seeding pasture mixture, lespedeza, and small grains. Before another season rolls around your farm may lose many tons of valuable soil that might be saved by starting a soil saving program now.

One of the most interesting things observed in connection with our work came to my attention the past week. I was working out the plans for the farm of Walter Crowder, one of our colored farmers who lives west of Whites Store near the Union County line. We came to fairly large and active gully in the edge of one field. I noticed that some one had made considerable effort recently to check the erosion in this gully. I was just about to compliment the owner for his efforts when he stopped me and surprised me by saying that the work had been done by his two small sons. The oldest of the two is only eleven years old and other just old enough to follow him around. They had planned the work all by themselves and had completed the job before the father knew anything about it.

During the early summer these boys had visited a near by farm where a CCC crew was doing gully work. They had observed the work and gone back home and tried as best they could to duplicate what they had seen. They got enough poles together from somewhere to put three dams across the gully and put some brush in the bottom of the gully. Of course the big rains we have had checked the erosion enough for some grass to get started in what had been a bare and active gully. Our hope is that thousands of other farm boys and girls will soon become as interested as these two boys and join with their parents and their government in a great campaign to fight and conquer this terrible menace of Soil Erosion before it is too late.

BETTER UNDERSTANDING.

Quite a change has developed in the thought of the public since the start of work by the Soil Erosion Service on the various demonstrations through the country. Evidence of an increased interest in conserving the land is coming to us every day in one form or another. For instance we recently received request from the Agriculture Commission of the American Bankers Association, Madison Wisconsin, asking for any literature we had on the subject of erosion control. No doubt the same request was made of other projects. Receipt of material sent was appropriately acknowledged with thanks. From other sections of the state requests are being received for information, sometimes wanting to install a conservation program on their land at their own expense.

Here in the Brown Creek Area there is rapidly increasing interest on the part of those who thought there might be a catch somewhere in our program. Some have thought there might be an increase in their taxes if they signed up an agreement. This and other incorrect ideas are disappearing and the landowners are seeing the offer made them in its true light. Some of our most enthusiastic cooperators are among those who were not interested in the beginning.

NOTE. In cutting stencil one line was omitted from sentence at middle of second paragraph. Corrected the sentence should read: "Of course the big rains we have had cut around and under the dams some but the dams and brush had checked the erosion enough for some grass to get started in what had been a bare and active gully."

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

Many people are aware of the increased activities in the Forestry Department. The department can report that the planting work on badly eroded fields and gullies is well underway. Large shipments of trees and shrubs are being received at intervals and up to date (January 15th) 170,000 trees have been planted on some thirty farms. This planting covers about 170 acres of abandoned fields and land sub-marginal for crop cultivation. The forest planting does not include the many gullies and terrace outlets being planted with berry producing shrubs by the Wild-life Division of the Forestry Department. Innumerable gullies in which check dams and other structures have been built, and many terrace outlets have been planted. The terrace outlets are usually planted with species of shrubs and trees beneficial to game and wild-life. The additional of food and cover planting will repopulate many areas with birds and wild-life.

The limited number of forest tree seedlings available will limit the amount of forest planting that the Forestry Department can accomplish this winter and spring. It is expected that many of the tree planting allocations and requirements will not be filled until the fall of 1935 or spring of 1936. However, tree planting will continue until after April 1st. From 10,000 to 20,000 seedlings of loblolly, short-leaf, and long-leaf pines, black locust, walnut, oak and other species are planted every day while planting stock is available.

It is the hope of the Forestry Department that all the cooperators will protect these seedlings and plantings and give them the same care that the department tried to exhibit while planting the trees. Many cooperators have expressed a feeling of satisfaction and pride knowing that they have acquired tree seedlings and that they were planted on erosive land.

FARM WOODLOT INVENTORY

The time of year is at hand when farmers should find it advantageous to take woodlot inventory. Anything of value possessed in a farm woodlot may be termed an asset. A comparison of "net worth" from one year to the next if properly compiled will indicate that forestry practices will show profit. Such a statement is a simple procedure that every farmer should follow, and assist with establishing a well organized land-use program.

The Forestry Department will welcome the opportunity to assist and give advice about the care of woodlands and the ways of bringing the existing woodlands to the highest type of forest, thereby giving nature an opportunity to repair depleted and unproductive timber land. It is our hope and desire that we may conduct a number of forest stand improvement demonstrations in the near future. Your help and suggestions will be appreciated.

N2 4947

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

CAPITAL \$100,000.00 SURPLUS \$100,000.00

W. L. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

GEO. MORRIS, CASHIER H. G. HODGES, ASST. CASHIER
THOS. A. MARSHALL, VICE PRESIDENT AND TRUST OFFICER

WADESBORO, N.C.

January 2, 1935.

Mr. E. S. Vanatta,
Asst. Regional Director,
Soil Erosion Service,
Wadesboro, N. C.


Dear Mr. Vanatta:

You are doing a great work for the farmers in this section, not only on upper Brown Creek, but by reason of your demonstration, farmers generally will come to realize the importance of conserving what is left of their land.

Any of us connected with this bank who own land entitled to the benefit of your program certainly want to co-operate. We also hope all our friends will realize the great benefit offered them and join one hundred percent with the government in this most important undertaking.

Very truly yours,

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK



President



Cashier.

L. D. ROBINSON, PRESIDENT
G. I. ALLEN, VICE-PRESIDENT

ORGANIZED 1902

ADAM LOCKHART, CASHIER
T. P. CARAWAY, ASST. CASHIER

THE BANK OF WADESBORO

CAPITAL STOCK \$500,000.00

WADESBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

January 5, 1935.

Soil Erosion Service,
Wadesboro, N. C.

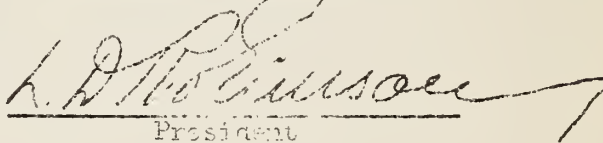
Gentlemen:

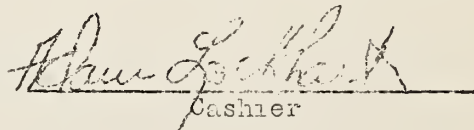
We, as bankers, are often called upon for advice; and in the matter of any practical measures to help save our land from washing, we want to go on record as being solidly in favor of it. We consider the proposal being made by the Government to help the farmers on upper Brown Creek improve their land by controlling erosion, one of the finest things which could be done for them. The plan is more than fair and to our way of thinking, contains no bad features. It is simple but thorough, and if any landowner fails to take advantage of it he will be missing an opportunity which will probably not come his way again.

We are convinced you are doing something which should have been started long ago, but it is much better late than never.

Very truly yours,

THE BANK OF WADESBORO


President


Cashier

Wadesboro, N. C.
January 9, 1935.

Soil Erosion Service,
Wadesboro, North Carolina.

Gentlemen:

I am very much pleased with the erosion control program started on my farm. In my opinion the farmers on upper Brown Creek are offered in your work something which will be of more value to them than anything that could be done for them.

Very truly yours,

E. C. Mills
E. C. Mills.

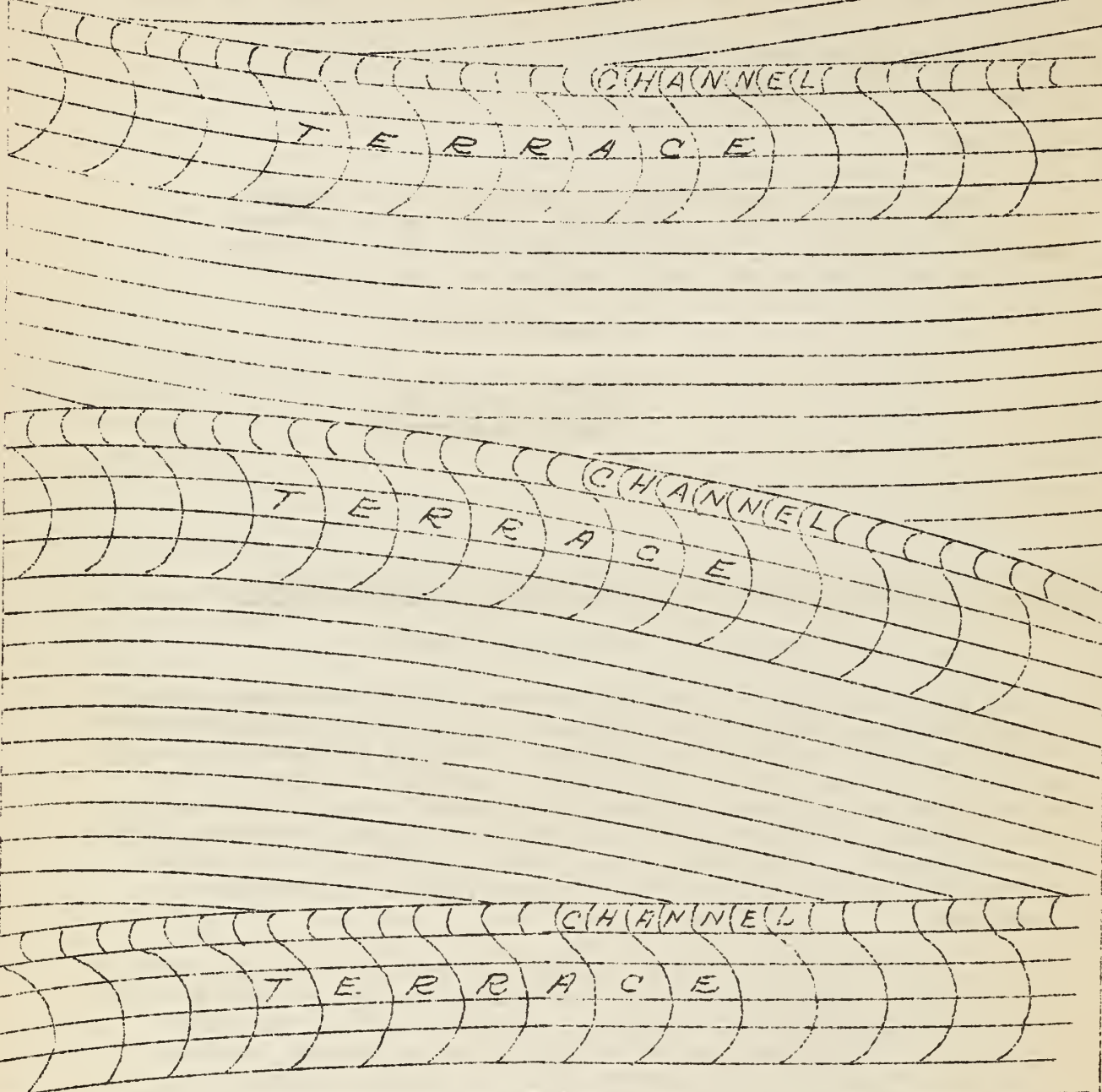
LOCAL BANKS ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORTERS OF EROSION CONTROL PROGRAM.

MR. E. C. MILLS WISHES HIS SENTIMENTS KNOWN.

We have published the foregoing letters to show what these conservative gentlemen think of our program. It has been said that Wadesboro is the only town on #20 Highway between Wilmington and Asheville having as many as two banks and did not have a bank failure. They are interested not only in their business connections but know that everyone who is benefitted adds that much to the earning power and wealth of the entire community. They realize also that no other one agency levies so heavy a toll each year from our potential wealth as erosion of farm lands.

Mr. Mills told the writer a few days ago that he has always been much interested in the problem of controlling erosion but that the more he saw of how our program works out the better he likes it. This is especially significant since Mr. Mills farm is located on slate soils and not nearly so subject to erosion as similar slopes would be on land East of Brown Creek. We think his letter represents what all our cooperators think once they get started and realize what the program means to them.

THERE IS PLENTY OF LAND ON FARMS FOR GROWING TIMBER AS A CROP AFTER ALL THE BETTER LANDS ARE USED FOR OTHER CROPS AND PASTURE. FOREST, UNLIKE THE SOIL RESOURCES, CAN BE USED AND REGROWN FOREVER. PLANTING TREES ON ERODED LANDS AND THE CONTINUOUS PRODUCTION OF TREE CROPS ON LANDS BEST SUITED FOR THIS PURPOSE IS THE AIM OF THE FORESTRY DEPARTMENT.



Start rows on terrace ridge and continue rows parallel to terrace on lower side until the channel of the next terrace below is reached.

All point rows should end in the terrace channel.

DIAGRAM
OF
ROWS WITH RELATION TO TERRACES
SOIL EROSION SERVICE

SEPT 1934
WADESBORO, N.C.
DONALD CHRISTY, Agricultural Eng.

NO SCALE

CROP PLANNING

A. A. Cone.

It is a fact that most farmers in the area do not practice a definite rotation on their farms, especially is this true in the case where land is rented. To establish a systematic rotation is one objective of the Soil Erosion Service. The rotation of crops is probably one of the most effective methods of combatting erosion and at the same time is conducive to good soil treatment and increasing soil fertility.

Such effort at planning a rotation as is usually made is done in a haphazard manner so that before it is well started it fails to fit and is entirely abandoned. It is the same old problem each spring and generally results in cotton being planted after cotton on the steep and quite erosive slopes. On many farms, an insufficient amount of hay and feedstuffs is the result of such a system. One of the first things the Soil Erosion Service does when going to work on a farm is to plan out a rotation which is satisfactory with the farmer. This aids in controlling erosion as well as furnishes hay and other feedstuffs.

In the Brown Creek Area we find a very high percentage of the open land is planted to cotton or other cultivated crops. This leaves the soil without a vegetative cover most of the year when it should be protected by some growing crop.

At the same time there are outstanding farms in the area which are not only self-supporting from the standpoint of feed, but which are producing high yields of crops, have other sources of income besides cotton, and on which the soil is steadily growing better in physical condition and productiveness. One of the secrets of success on these farms is that usually well planned rotations of crops are being followed.

Mr. C. E. Rushing, Marshville, North Carolina, Route #1, practices a very good rotation and one which will aid in controlling erosion, improve the land and provide sufficient hay and feed-stuffs. Mr. Rushings rotation is generally for the first year, corn and beans, second year, grain and lespedeza and the third year, cotton followed with vetch. The past year Mr. Rushing planted 10 acres to cotton and picked 15 bales. It is possible that if every farmer had some what similar rotation, the Bankhead Bill would not be such a burden and possibly not on the statute books today.

It certainly would be a fine thing if all the farmers out side of the erosion control area as well as those in the area would work out a satisfactory crop rotation once and for all, and thus, eliminate the annual problem of deciding what to plant with nothing definite in view.

E. C. W. CAMP S E S N C # 2.

As this is being written the mucky, mud colored, soil filled waters of Brown Creek are receding and with a few days of fair weather it will become once more the same lazy creek that we see daily as we cross on Highway 20.

As has been happening for years and years past, during periods of heavy rainfall, Brown Creek has taken her toll of rich, crop producing, soils; washed down to her channel for the lack of soil binding crops - improper cultivation of slopes, that should have been in timber or grazing and proper terracing. This toll taking has been going on for so many years that today the area known as Brown Creek watershed is also known as the worst eroded area in North Carolina.

Due to the heavy rainfall during the past few days Brown Creek, with its channel already choked, gathered in a few more thousand tons of good soil and again left its banks. But it is a certain fact that she has been cheated out of hundreds and hundreds, yes, thousands, of tons of this same good soil by reason of the work that has been done by Soil Erosion Service and the CCC boys of this camp.

Every bush, every log, that is thrown in the way of rushing waters have a certain definite retarding acting and decreases soil erosion just that much - - and if you will make a mental picture of 1,500 check-dams, every one slowing down and holding back the water - and at the same time holding back the soil - you can visualize to some extent how much Brown Creek has been deprived of her regular toll taking during these heavy rains. Then picture an area of 1,800 acres with 180 miles of terraces thrown staggered by - think of the slowing down process that these terraces have created and of the great amount of soil that has been allowed to settle down and not rapidly rushed to the sea - and you get another picture of the beneficial work we are doing.

In addition to the check-dams and terraces, hundreds of acres have been thinned and cleaned - thousands of square yards of gully banks have been sloped - and hundreds of acres have been seeded down to soil binding crops and surely the work we have been doing the past six months has been of great benefit.

As we go along we are strengthening this net work of check-dams, terraces, seeding, tree planting, etc. and in the years to come this section will be pointed out as one of the most outstanding lessons in empire rebuilding that our present government consummated.

We earnestly urge the farmers in this section to take advantage of this period of the year when their labors are not so great to take a day off and view the work we are doing - and we want to emphasize the fact that this is a demonstrative project and that it is the purpose of the Department of the Interior to give this lesson in such manner that all will be benefitted by our work.

THE BROWN CREEK WATERSHED is being put out by the Soil Erosion Staff once each month, mainly to assist in telling what we are doing and maintain a spirit of good fellowship with the citizens of the community we endeavor to serve.

EXECUTIVE

E. S. Vanatta, Asst. Regional Director.

W. B. Little, Asst. Extension Agent.

H. M. Stott, Asst. Erosion Specialist.

SOILS

R. C. Pleasants, Asst. Soil Expert

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

Donald Christy, Asst. Agricultural Engineer.

AGRONOMY

A. A. Cone, Asst. Agronomist.

J. E. Michael, Asst. Agronomist.

FORESTRY

H. P. Hagge, Forester.

L. B. Hairr, Asst. Agricultural Agent.

Directing personnel for the ECW Camp at Polkton are as follows:

W. B. McManus, Superintendent.

R. B. Stamey, Engineer.

S. W. Meyers, Foreman.

S. J. Crocker "

C. S. Faw "

C. A. Neal "

C. W. Thompson "

M. L. Ross "

A. E. Hendley, Jr. "

B. W. Ingram, Mechanic.

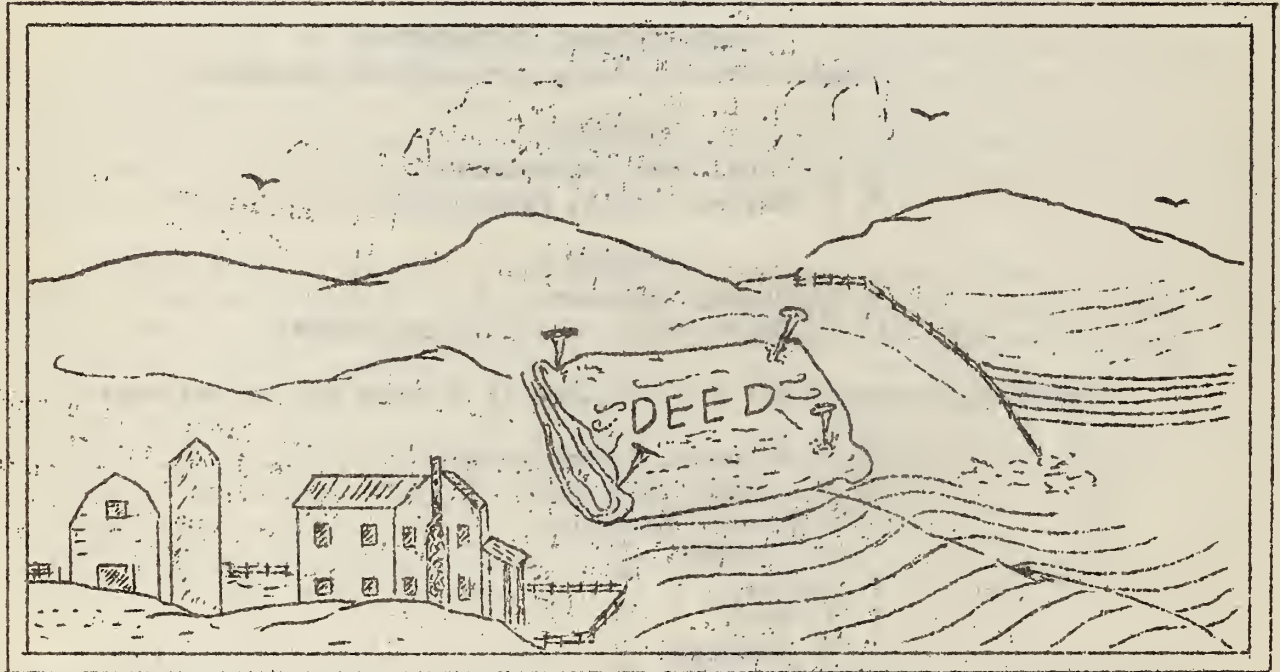
W. L. Teal, Clerk-Stenographer.

The farmers living or owning land in the boundaries of the Brown Creek project have a wonderful opportunity in this program.

----- IMPOTANT NOTICE

Anson, Union and Chesterfield counties have financed the publication of a SOIL EROSION HANDBOOK, copies of which have just been received at this office. A copy will be mailed within a few days to all farmers within the upper Brown Creek Area. Additional copies will be distributed by the County Agents. This is an interesting and instructive booklet and should be kept on hand for reference.

Do Not Forget



That a deed to your land will not
hold it in place.